

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 516

Expressing the sense of Congress that United States diplomatic and consular missions should provide the full and complete protection of the United States to certain citizens of the United States living abroad.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. OSE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that United States diplomatic and consular missions should provide the full and complete protection of the United States to certain citizens of the United States living abroad.

Whereas there are numerous cases in which citizens of the United States are prevented from leaving Saudi Arabia against their will or in violation of United States law;

Whereas Amjad Radwan and Rasheed Radwan, 2 United States citizens, were prevented from leaving Saudi Arabia by their Saudi-national father in 1985;

Whereas Monica Stowers, the mother of Amjad Radwan and Rasheed Radwan and a United States citizen, traveled to Saudi Arabia in November 1990 and heard directly from

her children of the physical and sexual abuse they had endured there;

Whereas upon learning of the abuse, Ms. Stowers brought her children to the United States Embassy in Riyadh, displayed their United States passports, and sought the protection of the Embassy and assistance in returning home to the United States;

Whereas personnel from the Department of State told Ms. Stowers and her children that the Embassy was “not a hotel” and urged them to leave;

Whereas personnel from the Department of State informed Ms. Stowers’ ex-husband, without her permission and in total disregard for her safety, that she and her children were in the Embassy;

Whereas personnel from the Department of State ordered United States Marines to physically eject Ms. Stowers and her children from the Embassy;

Whereas following her ejection, Ms. Stowers was arrested for refusing to leave Saudi Arabia without her children and sent to a women’s prison;

Whereas the current Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Robert W. Jordan, has pledged that no United States citizen will be similarly removed from the Embassy while he is ambassador;

Whereas American women in Saudi Arabia have directly informed Members of Congress of the physical abuse inflicted upon them by their Saudi husbands, the lack of support or protection for battered women in Saudi society, and the inability to leave Saudi Arabia with their children unless their husbands give permission;

Whereas these women and personnel from the Department of State estimate that there are hundreds of abused American women in Saudi Arabia who do not report their cases due to fear and hopelessness;

Whereas many of these abused American women do not attempt to escape for fear that failure would result in death or serious bodily injury to them and their children;

Whereas abused American women in Saudi Arabia are discouraged from seeking assistance from the United States Embassy or consulate in escaping with their children and are told that nothing can be done for them;

Whereas many of these women and their children are denied religious freedoms and other basic human rights while detained in Saudi Arabia;

Whereas a primary purpose of United States diplomatic missions is to protect the interests of United States citizens;

Whereas international law recognizes certain privileges and immunities for United States embassies, ambassadors' residences, and consulates; and

Whereas such privileges and immunities enable United States diplomatic personnel to provide sanctuary to United States citizens abroad: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that United
 3 States diplomatic and consular missions should provide
 4 the full and complete protection of the United States to
 5 citizens of the United States who—

6 (1) are living or traveling abroad;

- 1 (2) are victims of international child abduction,
- 2 domestic violence, or sexual abuse; and
- 3 (3) seek sanctuary in a United States diplo-
- 4 matic or consular mission.

